

168 157 161 Commonwealth

# R E A S O N S

H U M B L Y O F F E R D

## W H Y T H E N A M E O F WILLIAM LENTHALL

Should be Left Out of the E X C E P T I O N in the  
A C T of O B L I V I O N.

1. **T** Here is no action of mine that exprest me at any time averse to the King, and his affaires; for many years since I was violently prosecuted before a Committee of Parliament for sending money to his Majesty at *Oxford*, and for suffering both Persons and Intelligence to pass to him by my Authority. This was so violently pursued against me, that when the Committee could not make it against me, the Council of War appointed a Committee of theirs, and I was prosecuted by Col. *Venables*, and one Col. *Cook*.

2. Her Majesty being near the time of Her lying in, could not obtain licence from hence for conveniences for her use; and by my power and by a servant of my own, I conveyed to Her all things necessary for that occasion, which Her Majesty was pleas'd to take particular notice of. And for this I was also accus'd.

3. I was not wanting in the duty I owed to His Majesties Children, the Duke of *Glocester*, and the Lady *Elizabeth* that were here, and that there was no opportunity, but I made it my care to get necessaries and conveniences for them; and this will be testified by severall that attended them.

4. There could be no Person more desir'd and endeavour'd his Majesties honour and happiness then my self, and in order thereto advis'd some of the Commissioners that attended the Treaty, to labour all that could possibly be done to effect that; and that His Majesty should make no reliance on the Army, for they would deceive him. And this I signified in a Letter to the Speaker of the now House of Commons.

5. That at all times when any thing came to my single Vote (and then onely I could expresse my Opinion) I never consented to any violent action, but rather shewed my dislike to any such thing, or any proceeding that was not regular.

6. How it was my labour (and not in vain) to break the Army, and to divide the Soldiers from the Officers, which I effected, in such a time, when if the other party had got the better, I must have suffer'd both in my Life and Fortune.

7. I gave and held Intelligence with my Lord Generall, by Letters from hence when he was in *Scotland* and at *Berwick*, and got privately such Officers conveyed to him as he wanted there.

8. My refusing to take the Oath of Abjuration, which if I had not particularly at that time discountenanced, it had been taken by a great part of the Army and many others, which would have engaged men to be more desperate in their resistances to His Majesty.

9. I did not onely refuse to sign any new Writs, but absolutely obstructed the going out of any to fill up that House, which if it had been done, had answer'd the desires and expectations of most; and would have so settled mens minds, that I do think it might have prevented His Majesties comming in, and continued the Nation under a form of Government, diametrically opposite to His Majesties.

Lastly, the often attendancies I have made on his Excellency, to give him my humble advice for the speedy bringing in of His Majesty, and this when it was not publicly known that there would be any such thing: And it was also the result of many private advices that I had with divers persons that agitated His Majesties comming to His Dominions.

There are onely two things objected against me: The one is, My going to the Army; The other is, My sitting in the House.

To the first, I doe protest in the presence of God, I did think at that time the Army did intend the bringing in of His Majesty, and the settlement of the Kingdome, and that deceived me.

For the other, I doe acknowledge my weaknesse; and yet even in that I was led to it with a thought that I might doe a great deal of good, and prevent all persons interest from running into a confusion, which I much labour'd, and prevented many inconveniences. And this I can say, that in all this time I have countenanced a learned Ministry, and alwayes heard such, whose opinions were for the establishing the King and the Church.